

The Daily Tar Heel

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Friday, November 18, 1932

But the Melody Lingers On

The Columbia *Spectator*, which may be remembered for the various and vitriolic attacks of its editor, Reed Harris, on numerous university institutions, still follows in the steps of its late master, and this week is launching a faculty poll on varsity football. "We are interested," says *Spectator*, "in seeing what the faculty members who have been in touch with the system so many more years than ourselves, will have to say about football at Columbia."

Somehow we feel that *Spectator* is in for a set back if it wishes to obtain a faculty indictment against the gridiron sport. Attacks against football have come, in the main, from college publications desirous of obtaining larger circulation, from professors with head-line cravings, and from more or less radical youths who possess tendencies so liberal that they are against everything. Football, they fail to realize in their accusations, is a business—to the athletic managers and stadium builders. But to the public, whom Roosevelt told us couldn't be "fooled all of the time," it's a red-blooded sport and not a business proposition. In what other light can the public, which fills stadiums every Saturday, consider it? Football has been the crown prince of sport for thirty-five years. We doubt that Columbia's faculty may see it in a different light.—D.C.S.

Roosevelt's Magnanimity

The acceptance by Governor Roosevelt of President Hoover's invitation to attend an unofficial conference at the White House presents the president-elect to the American people in a new light. Since the announcement of the invitation several days ago speculation has been rife as to the manner in which the Democratic leader would receive it. "Our government," said President Hoover to Roosevelt, "is now confronted with a world problem of major importance to

this nation . . . which can only be solved with the complete cooperation of both parties." The problem is the recent request of Great Britain and France, America's greatest debtors, that they be relieved of their immediate payments, and President Hoover will indeed find it a difficult one to solve alone.

This is the second time during his administration that the president has attempted to settle international debt disputes informally. When they arose in acute form in the spring of 1931, he undertook to solve them without calling a special session of Congress. Today he is more precariously situated than before. He is a leader of a nation which has lost its confidence in him. In a special session of Congress he would find little cooperation or support, and any legislation he might achieve without Democratic aid would, in all probability be repealed by his successor.

The necessity for some immediate decisive action is evident to the leaders of both parties. Governor Roosevelt has shown himself to be greater than party prejudices by his willingness to cooperate. He would have nothing to lose by refusing to take a hand until March 4, and would be excused by the American people for refusing to take anything from Hoover. Politics in the United States needs more men who are willing to discard personal animosities for the betterment of the whole in such times of crises.—V.C.R.

Rousseau Was Right

A news item tells us: "How the aborigines of South Australia manage to live in lean times on next to nothing is to be investigated by an expedition sent out by the University of Adelaide. The secret of the econ-

omy of the natives near Mount Liebeg, 200 miles west of Alice Springs, will be thoroughly probed for the benefit of the whites." Professor J. B. Cleland is leaving for the wilds, determined, if it is the way they live and the food they consume that is the basis of their thrift, to let us profit by their experience.

All this makes us, who are not very well versed in these problems, wonder why with all our marvelous and vast political machinery, with our congressmen and senators, Hoovers and Roosevelts, interstate commerce commissions, and so forth, we have not yet found the perfect economy. But these things very likely are problems too intricate to understand. Doubtless, in condescending to visit our uncivilized brethren, we shall do him great honor. Patronizingly, we may muddle his brain with tales of our wonderful automobiles, radios, and rackets, our "covering up," "fixing," "muscling in," and other multitudinous activities which our complicated government have made possible.

In return for our wondrous tale and the gift of beads, glass, and trinkets, we may be able to persuade Big Chief Dynamo to tell us how he has learned to live so economically. After many many hours of sign language in which we might attempt to explain to Big Chief what unemployment and a high tariff were, and how lucky he and his people are not to be pestered with problems of such dignity, after many hours so spent in vain, we should eventually have recourse to asking him by pointing to the mouth how we can keep from starving. This unusual problem would, no doubt, perplex Big Chief mightily at first. Still he would eventually solve this problem to his

satisfaction, if not to ours, by pointing to the land, to the sky, and to our hands. He would then elucidate further by propelling his hand to his mouth, thus explaining the process of eating in its earlier stages. With this start certainly, we should have no trouble in finding at once that long lost road back to prosperity. We should then return to our country, still scornful, of course, of our crude, uncultivated, un-Christian, uncivilized, and boorish fellow beings, but nevertheless convinced that Rousseau had the right idea.—B.B.P.

It All Depends

Since the days when Alexander The Great founded the city of Alexandria, and its famous university along with it, as a memorial to himself, state universities have been struggling for existence.

Since that time, the very factor which prompted the great conqueror to build an institution sponsored by the state—the aim that it should be the mother of free and liberal thought—has served as a check on the development of such schools.

During the last half of the nineteenth century, despite the efforts of the demagogues, and all the other impedimenta on society, there was built up in this country a fine system of public institutions of higher learning, embracing every section of the nation, and almost every state of the union.

Behind the spirit which gave rise to these new developments, there lay a new concept of the duty of the state towards its citizens, and of their duty toward their state. The state needed educated citizens; the citizens needed a chance to secure an education, regardless of

financial status. To provide for these needs, a system of state universities, rivaling, and surpassing the oldest and richest of privately endowed institutions, both in the wealth of their equipment, and the scope of their activities, was founded. They were influenced by no creed but the determination to find the truth.

Now, the very existence of these institutions is being threatened as a result of the depression. Salaries have been cut below the cost of decent living; building and the acquiring of new materials have been cur-

tailed. As the state legislatures go into session, they would do well to bear in mind that in a very short time the work which required many years to build up may be irretrievably ruined by parsimony.—W.A.S.

On the average, 8,000,000 miles are driven in automobiles before one person is killed in an accident. But don't get careless. Remember that the other drivers may drive 7,999,999 of them.—*Detroit News*.

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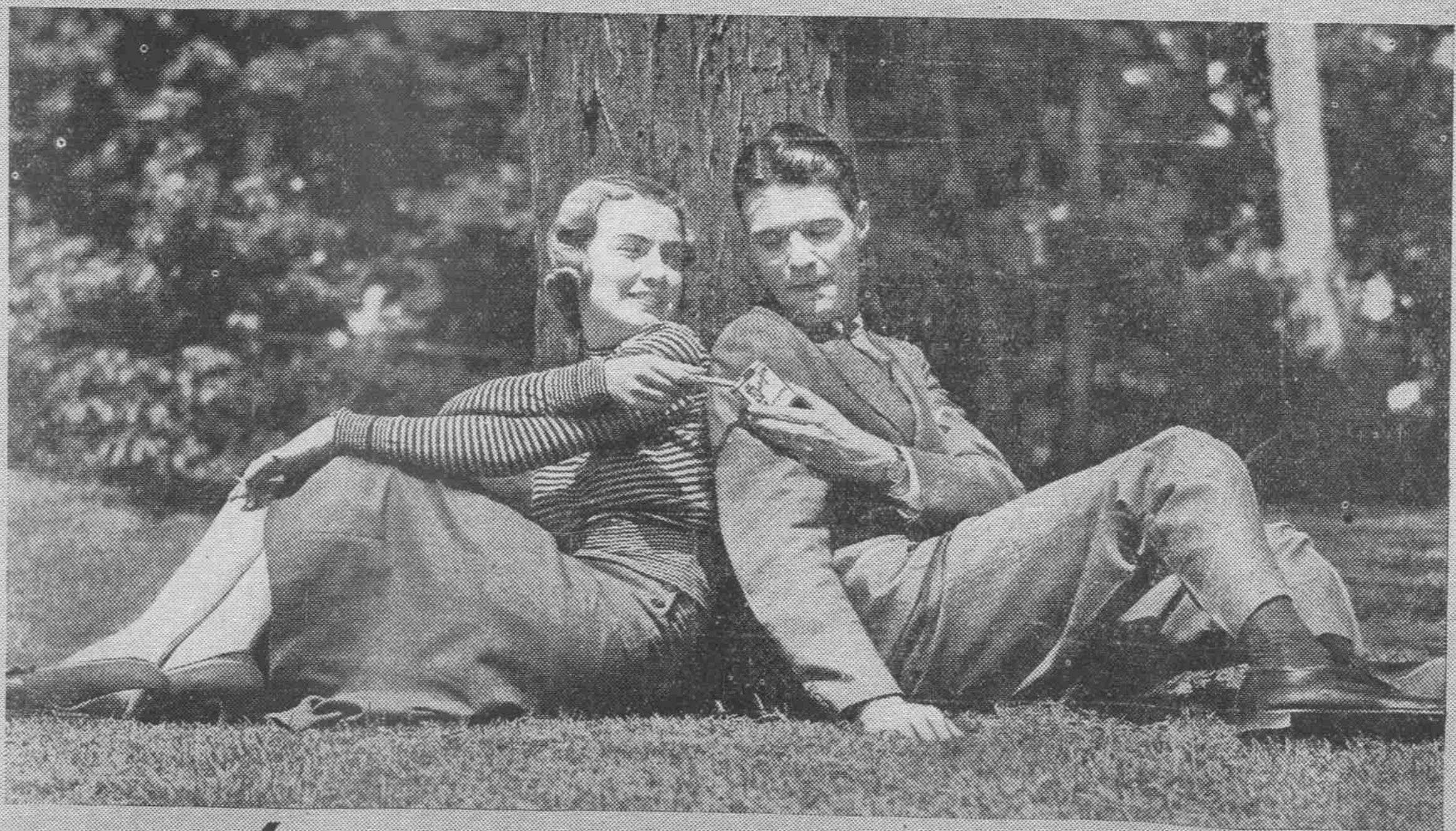
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